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10 11	Attorneys for Plaintiff, Shonda Howard		
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13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
14	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
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16	Shonda Howard,	Case No.: '15CV0778 JAH RBB	
17	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES	
18	Ve	1. VIOLATION OF FAIR DEBT	
19	VS.	COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT,	
20	Midland Credit Management, Inc.,	15 U.S.C. § 1692 ET SEQ.;	
21	Defendant.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED	
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		COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES	

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Shonda Howard, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA").
  - 2. Original jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that Defendant transacts business here and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred here.

## **PARTIES**

- 4. The Plaintiff, Shonda Howard (hereafter "Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. The Defendant, Midland Credit Management, Inc. (hereafter "Midland"), is a company with an address of 8875 Aero Drive, Suite 200, San Diego, California 92123, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

### A. The Debt

- 6. A financial obligation (the "Debt") was allegedly incurred to an original creditor (the "Creditor") by "Whitey", a person who is not a party to this lawsuit (the "Debtor").
- 7. Upon information and belief, the Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 8. Upon information and belief, the Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Midland for collection, or Midland was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 9. The Defendant attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

## B. <u>Midland Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics</u>

- 10. Within the last year, Midland contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt.
  - 11. When contact was made, Midland asked to be connected to the Debtor.
- 12. Plaintiff is not the Debtor, does not know the Debtor, and has no responsibility for repayment of the Debt.

- 13. During a live conversation with Midland, Plaintiff advised Midland that it was calling the wrong number and that the Debtor was unknown to Plaintiff.
  - 14. Plaintiff further requested that Midland cease all calls.
- 15. Despite Plaintiff's unequivocal explanation and request, Midland continued calling Plaintiffs at an excessive and harassing rate.

#### C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 16. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of Defendant's conduct.
- 17. As a direct consequence of the Defendant's acts, practices and conduct, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

# <u>COUNT I</u> <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT</u> <u>15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.</u>

- 18. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 19. Defendant contacted Plaintiff in regards to the third party's debt on numerous occasions, without being asked to do so, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(3).

- 20. Defendant engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692d.
- 21. Defendant caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5).
- 22. Defendant used an unfair and unconscionable means to collect the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692f.
- 23. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
- 24. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendant's violations.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

- A. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- B. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- C. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§ 1692k(a)(3);

1	D. Punitive damages; and	
<b>2</b> 3	E. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.	
4 5	TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS	
6 7	DATED: April 9, 2015 TRINETTE G. KENT	
8 9	By: /s/ Trinette G. Kent Trinette G. Kent, Esq.	
10 11 12	Lemberg Law, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff, Shonda Howard	
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